

forms. The ferment used in the writer's experiments was taka-diastrase, which was employed because of its remarkably strong amylolytic power. The results of his experiments establish the following conclusions:

Taka-diastrase digests starch with remarkable rapidity in a neutral or slightly acid medium, and its rapidity is directly proportional to the quantity of taka-diastrase used. Taka-diastrase in the above medium is capable of digesting three hundred times its own weight of starch in one hour.

The digestion of starch by taka-diastrase is accelerated and enhanced by the presence of a small quantity of free hydrochloric acid, while beyond a certain amount the free hydrochloric acid retards, and eventually arrests the diastatic digestion.

The digestion of starch by taka-diastrase is not interfered with by organic acids. On the contrary, the presence of a small quantity of organic acid enhances the diastatic digestion of starch.

The presence of albumin combined with hydrochloric acid seems to lessen the hindering action of free hydrochloric acid on starch digestion.

Albuminous foods, both of animal and vegetable origin, combine with, or neutralize, free hydrochloric acid of gastric juice, making the acid perfectly inert. The combined hydrochloric acid has no hindering action on diastatic digestion by starch.

In dogs' stomachs, when albuminous foods are given with starchy food, no free hydrochloric acid is found at the end of one hour, and in the meantime starchy foods are perfectly digested.

In the human stomach, when an ordinary regular meal is taken, the albuminous matter of the food combines with the hydrochloric acid of the gastric juice as fast as it is formed, at least for a period of one hour, and such combined hydrochloric acid has no hindering action on starch digestion, and the diastatic digestion of starchy food is practically completed within that period.—*Medicine*.

SOME POINTS CONNECTED WITH SLEEP, SLEEPLESSNESS AND HYPNOTICS.

Bradbury (*British Medical Journal*, July 15, 1899), in his Croonian lectures, makes some practical suggestions upon insomnia and hypnotics which are worthy of careful consideration. He states that the great principle of therapeutics—the removal of the cause—should ever be kept in